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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AFRICA.

Report from Cape Colony—Plague—Examination for plague-infected rodents.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, September 5, 1904.

The following report by the medical officer of health for the colony on the state of the outbreak of bubonic plague in the Cape Colony for the week ended September 3, 1904, is published for general information.

NOEL JANISCH,

Under Colonial Secretary.

Port Elizabeth.—No case of plague was discovered during the week. At the plague hospital, 1 patient was discharged. Three cases remain under treatment.

Ninety-eight rats (10 found dead) and 129 mice (22 found dead) were bacteriologically examined during the week, of which 11 rats and 21 mice proved to be plague infected.

East London.—Plague-infected rodents continued to be found in the town during the week.

CAPE TOWN.

Harbor board area and shipping in harbor.—Two hundred and seventeen rodents were examined; no plague infection was discovered.

Cape Town municipal area.—Four hundred and forty-two rodents were examined by the medical officer of health for the city; no plague infection was discovered.

Other districts.—No plague infection in man or animal was discovered.

J. A. MITCHELL,

Acting Medical Officer of Health for the Colony.

BRAZIL.

Report from Para—Yellow fever conditions.

Consul Ayme reports, September 15, as follows:

Yellow fever is endemic in this city, but it is asserted not a single case has ever occurred in the interior of the state, the disease being strictly limited to the city of Para. Foreigners and, in general, new arrivals in the city form the greater number of the victims. This apparent susceptibility of strangers to yellow fever is attributed with much reason to the complete neglect on their part of the proper prophylactic and preventive measures. To my personal knowledge this negligence is not unfrequently supplemented by the greatest imprudences, such as exposure to drafts while perspiring freely, drinking large quantities of iced beer, etc. The *Stegomyia fasciata*, or so-called "Yellow-fever mosquito," bites during the daytime.

It shows a preference for the brightest light and, according to Dr. Emilio Goeldi, director of the museum here, who has studied this mosquito very carefully, it is attracted by human perspiration. As those mosquitoes with which the stranger is familiar usually bite dur-

ing the night and in obscurity, they are not prepared for the attack of the *stegomyia*, and merely complain of the annoyance of being bitten during the day as well as at night. They object also to the use of mosquito bars during the daily siesta and even at night, and all of this in complete ignorance of the danger they are incurring. At the same time it is certain that the sudden entrance into this—as any—tropical climate is fraught with grave danger to the great majority of strangers. While the climate of Para is neither hotter nor more humid in its maxima than places within the United States, it is under the equator, and therefore enervating. This is not an accusation against Para; it is the statement of an acknowledged fact; indeed, among equatorial places of residence the city of Para can claim certain climatic advantages which have been well supplemented by its residents and its officers.

All deaths from whatever cause are registered with much detail, and it is possible to give statistics of deaths from any disease, but it is not possible to show the percentage of deaths to cases, as no register is kept of these. In a conversation with the governor of the state recently this question of percentage came up. The governor thought the deaths were 60 per cent of the cases. Others present estimated the deaths at 10 per cent and some at 80 per cent of the cases. Personally, I am inclined to accept the highest figures as more nearly correct.

The reputation which this city has acquired abroad is due chiefly to exaggerated opinions as to the prevalence of yellow fever here. An examination of the number of registered deaths during the last five years will reveal that, compared with its population of 150,000 (estimated), the deaths from yellow fever are not fearful—0.306 per cent in 1900, 0.09 per cent in 1901, the same in 1902, 0.085 in 1903, and probably still less this year. The great mortality in 1900 is attributed to the great influx of strangers in that year attracted by the then existent “boom” of apparent prosperity.

If foreigners arriving in this city would immediately consult either a competent physician or foreigners of long residence here and would then follow exactly the advice given them they would lessen the probability of being attacked by yellow fever by 90 per cent.

I annex hereto a table showing the deaths for each month for the years 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, and the first eight months of the current year. For purposes of comparison I have separated the first eight months of the other years.

Deaths from yellow fever, Para, Brazil.

Months.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
January	16	32	10	7	9
February	18	34	14	5	13
March	15	14	24	14	7
April	33	5	11	9	6
May	60	7	17	7	11
June	66	4	16	21	9
July	67	8	10	18	15
August	64	3	5	11	28
Eight months	279	107	107	92	88
September	41	5	9	8
October	23	6	4	8
November	17	8	11	10
December	19	11	10	10
Total	459	137	141	128